

To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Cc: Canavan, Sheila[Canavan.Sheila@epa.gov]; Boswell, Karen[Boswell.Karen@epa.gov]
From: Kramek, Niva
Sent: Sat 1/7/2017 1:14:28 AM
Subject: RE: Assessing & Managing Chemicals under TSCA - methylene chloride

Dear Kimberly:

Thank you for your email. Methylene chloride is sometimes used for bathtub reglazing and other paint and coating removal; it has a strong, sweet odor. EPA has assessed the risks of methylene chloride in paint and coating removal, including bathtub refinishing, and found that there are risks of concerns for workers, consumers, and bystanders to this use of this chemical. Our risk assessment found that bathtub refinishing with windows closed can lead to high levels of methylene chloride in the air. The Centers for Disease Control have identified more than 13 worker deaths resulting from bathtub refinishing with methylene chloride, and there have been additional deaths and injuries during other paint and coating projects with this chemical. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently released a hazard alert for workers warning them not to use this chemical for bathtub refinishing without supplied-air respirators and proper training, in addition to chemically-impervious gloves, goggles, and clothing. OSHA requires that workplaces with methylene chloride do not exceed more than 25 parts per million of methylene chloride in the air. They have noted that if a worker can smell methylene chloride, the levels are higher than OSHA would allow.

Methylene chloride is acutely toxic, causing asphyxia that can lead to loss of consciousness and death. It is also a probable human carcinogen and has additional impacts on human health. EPA found that these acute and chronic effects can occur at levels of exposure produced during typical paint removal projects, particularly bathtub refinishing.

We currently are working on a proposed regulation that aims to address the risks presented by methylene chloride in paint and coating removal. More information on that action, and additional links, are below.

More about methylene chloride: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/methylene-chloride>

More about our regulation under development: <https://yosemite.epa.gov/opei/rulegate.nsf/byrin/2070-ak07>

OSHA's hazard alert for methylene chloride in bathtub refinishing:
https://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/methylene_chloride_hazard_alert.html

Please let me know if I can provide any more information. I'm interested in talking to you about this.

Thanks!

Niva

Niva Kramek
Existing Chemicals Branch, Chemical Control Division
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-4830
Kramek.niva@epa.gov

From: drupal_admin@epa.gov On Behalf Of Kimberly via EPA
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2017 5:23:16 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Boswell, Karen
Subject: Assessing & Managing Chemicals under TSCA

Submitted on 01/06/2017 5:23PM

Submitted values are:

Name: Kimberly

Subject: Assessing & Managing Chemicals under TSCA

Email: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Comments: My concern is the air quality in my apartment. The unit below was getting tub reglazed, so is the smell the methylene chloride fumes? My leasing manager was sure to make me feel stupid, and say it was properly ventilated. I went to check, and the windows aren't even open. Almost 4 and a half hours later and my apartment still feels unsafe to return to.

Web Area: Assessing and Managing Chemicals under TSCA